

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 11118 AND PREVIOUS

1. REQUEST EMBASSY REPLY TO JUNE 4 SOVIET NOTE ON CIVIL AVIATION WITH THE FOLLOWING:
2. BEGIN TEXT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES, REFERRING TO NOTE NUMBER 30 OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DATED JUNE 4, 1977, STATES THE FOLLOWING:

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE UNITED STATES' APPROACH TO OUR CIVIL AVIATION
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RELATIONS HAS BEEN POSITIVE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE OR CONSTRUCTIVE TO REFUTE POINT BY POINT THE SOVIET ARGUMENTATION MADE IN THE REFERENCED NOTE. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES HAVE HAD AS THEIR OBJECTIVES THE CORRECTION OF THE LONGSTANDING FUNDAMENTAL IMBALANCE OF BENEFITS AND THE EXPANSION OF AIR SERVICES FOR BOTH

COUNTRIES' DESIGNATED AIRLINES. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE OPERATION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN AGREEMENT THAT ENSURES A REASONABLE BALANCE OF BENEFITS FOR

BOTH SIDES. THE SOVIET SIDE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS APPEARED TO BE INTERESTED ONLY IN AN EXPANSION OF SERVICES. AS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR SINCE NOVEMBER, 1975, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD ONLY EXCERBATE THE EXISTING AND LONG-STANDING PROBLEM.

WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING POSSIBILITIES OF RESOLVING THE SEVERAL QUESTIONS BEFORE US. AFTER THE REVIEW HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESUME TALKS. WHILE WE WOULD APPROACH NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN OPEN MIND, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE APPROACH OR FORMULA BOTH SIDES DECIDE TO EXPLORE, CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS MUST CENTER AROUND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DISCUSSED DURING THE LAST SIX ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

MEANWHILE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER RESCINDING THE TICKETING RESTRICTIONS INTRODUCED IN 1976 IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET RESTRICTIONS AND INVITES THE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD A MUTUAL LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS. WE WOULD EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION TO RECOGNIZE AEROFLOT'S OBLIGATION UNDER THE BASIC 1966 CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT TO RESUME SALES OF TICKETS ON ALL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAN AMERICAN'S DIRECT AND INDIRECT SERVICES. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH ANALYSIS CONTAINED REFTEL. AS STATED ABOVE, WE PREFER NOT TO ADDRESS EVERY SOVIET ARGUMENT IN OUR REPLY. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO EMBASSY ORALLY MAKING POINTS CONTAINED PARAGRAPH THREE OF REFTEL IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES. WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT ABLE, AT THIS TIME, TO STATE REVENUE POOLING POSSIBILITIES TO SOVIETS. WE HAVE BEGUN TO INITIATE A NEW REVIEW OF THAT APPROACH WITHIN THE USG AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY THE USG POSITION SHORTLY. VANCE

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